

REMARKS

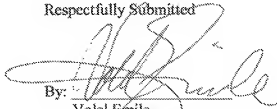
In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 – 17 and 20 - 23 were indicated as being allowed.

In the present response, Applicants have canceled Claims 18 and 19.

Note that by canceling rejected Claims 18 and 19 from further consideration, Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by the claims is not patentable. Rather, Claims 18 and 19 were canceled solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by Claims 18 and 19, as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

By this amendment, therefore, Claims 1 – 17 and 20 - 23 remain pending in the Application. Applicants believe that the Application is in proper form for allowance and kindly request allowance and passage to issue of the pending claims.

Respectfully Submitted

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